

REMARKS

This application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. The present amendment effectively replaces the amendment filed January 6, 2006, which was denied entry.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-7 under 35 USC §112, first and second paragraphs. The 112, first paragraph rejection is for failure to comply with the written description requirement. Both the 112 first and second paragraph rejections are based on the recitation in claims 1 and 4 of "equal to or greater than 260 m²/g".

Applicants have amended each of claims 1 and 4 to specifically recite a value of 260 m²/g, which value is fully supported by the present application as originally filed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of both rejections are therefore respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-7 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over LIEBERMAN in view of evidence given by WYPYCH. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

As noted above, applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 4 to specifically recite a value of 260 m²/g for a ratio of surface size to nitrogen absorption of carbon black. This feature is neither taught nor suggested by any known prior

art, including the references now applied against the claims and all other references of record.

Applicants note the statement in the Advisory Action of January 17, 2006 that an amendment such as that provided above would place the application into condition for allowance.

As the claims as amended clearly recite a set of features that is neither anticipated by nor obvious over any known prior art, and as such amendment raises no new issues requiring further search and/or consideration, applicants respectfully suggest that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

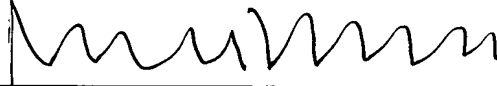
If the Examiner has any questions or requires further clarification of any of the above points, the Examiner may contact the undersigned attorney so that this application may continue to be expeditiously advanced.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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